

life for others." The freedom we enjoy and the liberty in the world for which he fought are part of the great legacy Chief Warrant Officer Four Chris J. Scherkenbach leaves behind.

A native of Jacksonville, Chris was born in Illinois on November 3, 1964. A devoted husband to his wife Michelle, Chris was also a loving son, brother and uncle and will be dearly missed. To all of Chris's family, we extend our deepest sympathy.

Mr. Speaker, because of Chief Warrant Officer Four Chris J. Scherkenbach's sacrifice for our country, I ask all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in recognizing his service in our nation's Armed Forces and remembering both his life and his dedication to the United States of America.

SUPPORT OF JAVITS-WAGNER-O'DAY (JWOD) PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support for the Javits-Wagner-O'Day (JWOD) Program, which has provided vocational training and employment opportunities to the blind and disabled since 1971. The JWOD Program, which brings together the Federal Government and approximately 600 non-profit organizations supporting the blind and disabled, is a model public-private partnerships for advancing the collective values of our nation.

The unemployment rate among the blind and disabled in our country is estimated at approximately 70 percent. It is troubling that we as a society have not created a system that successfully makes the American Dream a real possibility for all Americans, and particularly for those who are blind or disabled. In my many years of public service, I have become acquainted with numerous individuals with disability. I have always been impressed with their vigor and spirit and their willingness to take on any task in order to contribute positively to our community and our society. These Americans do not come asking for a handout, but rather ask that we as public officials provide them with the tools they need to achieve self-sufficiency, personal fulfillment, and full inclusion in the benefits of our society.

The JWOD Program stands as one of the most successful programs in addressing economic and social equality for blind and disabled members of our communities. The non-profits participating in JWOD have provided training and job opportunities to 42,000 individuals who are blind or disabled. The Federal Government supports these organizations through the Committee for Purchase from People who are Blind or Severely Disabled, which directs all Federal agencies to purchase certain products and services only from JWOD-affiliated organizations that train and employ blind and disabled. The net result is that the Federal Government uses its purchasing power to ensure a steady revenue stream to JWOD-affiliated organizations while at the same time acquiring products and supplies at a fair market price.

It is also important to recognize the important role played by the National Industries for

the Blind (NIB) and National Institute for the Severely Handicapped (NISH)-Creating Employment for People with Severe Disabilities. These non-profit organizations provide advice to the Federal Government as to which products or services it should include in its JWOD Procurement List, while at the same time providing technical, logistical, and marketing assistance to the 600 JWOD-affiliated organizations. These organizations also play an important role in advocating on behalf of the employment of blind and disabled individuals in traditional businesses and organizations. Needless to say, the success of JWOD would not be possible if not for the NIB and NISH-Creating Employment for People with Severe Disabilities.

As we Americans strive to form a more compassionate society and a more compassionate world, it is important that we recognize the tremendous success of the JWOD Program and the dedication of those individuals and organizations who have made this program a success. I urge my colleagues to reaffirm their support for JWOD, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on legislation in support of this important program.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Motion to Instruct Conferees by Representative CAPPs.

Our greatest obligation is to protect the people we represent. That means protecting their health and wellbeing. Therefore, it is important that we do not let those responsible for MBTE contamination of our water off the hook.

Clean and safe drinking water is vital to our health, not a luxury.

So I want to make sure that chemicals that cause cancer or other illnesses that threaten the health, even the lives, of my constituents are not able to contaminate the water we drink.

That is why I have been working hard to gain funds to pay for the removal of perchlorate from groundwater in San Bernardino County.

And that is why I am concerned about MBTE and its impact on the communities I represent.

MBTE is a dangerous chemical that has contaminated the groundwater in thousands of sites across the country.

Unfortunately, instead of holding the manufacturers of MBTE accountable for the harm their products have caused, some Republicans in Congress want to make the American people pay.

I believe in being accountable and responsible. This Administration has talked about accountability, but now Republican leaders are now trying to pass the buck.

The cost of cleaning up MBTE-contaminated water nationwide is estimated to be \$29 billion.

It is wrong to ask the county and city governments and local water agencies to pay.

Their budgets are already under a lot of stress, and they would have to raise the funds from taxpayers and ratepayers.

We must reject provisions that give corporate polluters a free pass. MBTE manufacturers must be held accountable for the harm they have caused and clean up their own mess.

COMMEMORATING 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF CONCLUSION OF WAR IN THE PACIFIC AND HONORING VETERANS OF BOTH PACIFIC AND ATLANTIC THEATERS OF SECOND WORLD WAR

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I offer my heartfelt support for the House Concurrent Resolution 191 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II.

We are a free and prosperous nation because the Greatest Generation defeated tyranny in World War II. We owe them many debts, including remembering and teaching new generations of Americans that freedom is not free.

September 2, 2005, will mark the 60th anniversary of the final surrender of Japan, which occurred on the USS *Missouri*. This is a date we must remember and commemorate.

We remember the 16 million Americans who served in the military during World War II. We remember 670,000 U.S. casualties including 400,000 deaths. The Greatest Generation faced some of our Nation's darkest hours and emerged victorious. We learn from their courage and selflessness. We give thanks for their resolve.

We remember the sacrifices and struggles of the American soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines and members of the Coast Guard in World War II. We remember their families at home who prayed for victory and the safe return of fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, brothers, sisters and neighbors while making their own sacrifices for the war effort.

We remember those who fought in the Pacific campaigns against the Japanese Empire. We remember sea battles in the Coral Sea, at Midway, in Leyte Gulf—the greatest naval battle in history—and Lingayen Gulf, which turned the tide of the Pacific war and led to ultimate victory.

We remember Iwo Jima, where more than 7,000 Americans and 20,000 Japanese died. We remember a battle that raged for more than a month between February and March 1945, and we remember the powerful image of five marines and one Navy corpsman raising the American flag on Mount Suribachi.

We remember the Battle of Okinawa, the largest sea-air-land battle in history, waged between April and June 1945. We remember the 38,000 Americans wounded, the 12,000 killed or listed as missing, and the more than 107,000 Japanese and Okinawan conscripts killed and the 100,000 Okinawan civilians who died.

The sacrifice of the Greatest Generation inspires us today. We remember with our words, but must also remember with deeds; by fully

funding and supporting health care for our veterans; by passing and implementing a new GI Bill of Rights, which meets the needs of our soldiers and veterans in the 21st century; by realizing our troops lived with the creed that they would leave no one behind in battle and we must leave no veteran behind in addressing wounds suffered on our behalf.

I am proud to support this resolution to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Let our prayers be filled with thankfulness. Let our words be replete with commemorations. And let our deeds be worthy of the sacrifice of the great Americans who answered the call in our darkest hours.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF HILLSBORO, OREGON

HON. DAVID WU

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the City of Hillsboro, Oregon and celebrate the dedication of its new Civic Center on July 16, 2005. On this special occasion, I would not only like to reflect upon Hillsboro and Oregon's proud heritage, but the vision of the future that made it possible.

As the Pacific Northwest celebrates the bicentennial anniversary of the achievements of Lewis and Clark and the Corp of Discovery, I find it fitting that Hillsboro is bravely and confidently launching ahead its own future by implementing the Hillsboro 2020 Vision and Action Plan. Mayor Tom Hughes, the Hillsboro City Council, Hillsboro's citizens and various community organizations came together to determine what their community should look like in the coming decades. This forward-thinking plan, like the new Hillsboro Civic Center, will lay the foundation for decades of growth, civic engagement, environmental conservation, and economic prosperity.

America looks to the future with the same pioneering spirit that guided the Corps of Discovery. As we celebrate our return to space with the launch of the Space Shuttle *Discovery*, Hillsboro, a city born from that same pioneering spirit, also celebrates its own launch towards a future of its own making. By focusing on environmentally sustainable designs, the Hillsboro Civic Center is a triumph to conservation, using 100 percent renewable energy in its electricity, 90 percent recycled building material, and the most modern of construction techniques with certified wood from local sustainable forests.

The building techniques and energy efficient design used in construction of the Hillsboro Civic Center earned it a GOLD rating, the highest standard awarded by LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

I applaud Mayor Hughes, the Hillsboro City Council, and citizens of Hillsboro for their vision and commitment to their community, the environment, and the future development of Oregon.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, on July 11, 2005, I was in my district participating in the first meeting of the New Jersey Flood Mitigation Task Force. This Task Force is working to help prevent the devastating flooding that occurred for a number of my constituents earlier this year. Due to the schedule, I missed roll-call votes Nos. 363 and 364. Had I been present, I would have voted in the following manner: rollcall No. 363 "aye" and rollcall No. 364 "aye."

CHINA NATIONAL OFFSHORE OIL CORPORATION LTD'S TAKEOVER BID FOR UNOCAL CORPORATION OF CALIFORNIA

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 14, 2005

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I submit for the RECORD a letter I sent on July 13 to the law firm Akin Gump outlining my concerns with regard to the firm's representation of China National Offshore Oil Corporation Ltd. (CNOOC) in its takeover bid for Unocal Corp. of California.

A critical element that has been absent in much of the discussion surrounding free trade is the fact that CNOOC is not a private foreign company. It is a Chinese state-run entity—70 percent state-owned.

Let there be any confusion about who we are dealing with when we speak of the Chinese Communist government, I want to highlight a quote from a July 13 Washington Post article. An adviser to the Chinese central government, who spoke on the condition of anonymity fearing government disciplinary action, said, "No matter if it's rogue or a friend's oil, we don't care. Human rights? We don't care. We care about oil. Whether Iran would have nuclear weapons or not is not our business. America cares, but Iran is not our neighbor. Anyone who helps China with energy is a friend."

Is there no bright line to separate who the lobbyists in Washington will or will not represent?

Mr. R. BRUCE MCLEAN,
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP, New Hampshire Ave NW., Washington DC.

DEAR MR. MCLEAN: I write today in response to a packet of information I received in late June, which included a letter from the chief executive officer of China National Offshore Oil Corporation Ltd. (CNOOC) peppered with assurances, aimed at easing growing congressional concern, that CNOOC's bid to "merge" with Unocal Corp. of California was in fact friendly. I must say in all candor that I was shocked that the packet arrived courtesy of Akin Gump—one of Washington's most distinguished and reputable lobbying and law firms.

Having worked in Washington for over three decades, I understand that lobbying is part and parcel of everyday life in the nation's capital. Every day, good people walk the halls of Congress making the case for

their constituency, advocating on any number of issues and causes with great passion and insight. That said, when I noted that CNOOC was one of your newest clients, I immediately thought, "Is there no bright line to separate who the lobbyists in Washington will or will not represent?"

A critical part of the discussion recently surrounding the free market, charges of protectionism and the politicization of trade within the context of CNOOC's takeover bid for Unocal is that CNOOC is not a private foreign company. CNOOC is a Chinese state-run entity—70 percent state-owned. At the end of the day, it has to be obvious that any decisions on the issues of energy, economic and ultimately national security regarding the operations of this company will be based on what is advantageous to the Chinese Communist government. It is noteworthy that a Pentagon report released in January by the Office of Net Assessment has warned that China's need for oil, gas and other energy resources appears to be driving the country toward becoming an expansionist power.

As Irwin Stelzer with the Hudson Institute recently wrote, "China has decided to use its state resources to convert its major companies into important multi-nationals—part of an aggressive policy of projecting Chinese power on a global basis. If that's not political, nothing is . . . That policy is most noticeable in oil markets. China's acquisition of Unocal's substantial Asian assets will increase its political influence in that part of the world."

But we need not look to "inside the Beltway" policy analysts for insight into China's global ambitions. Chen Yonglin, the high ranking Chinese defector with intimate knowledge of China's worldwide intelligence gathering efforts, has said, "The United States is considered by the Chinese Communist Party as the largest enemy, the major strategic rival."

I recall with great irony the heated annual debates in Congress surrounding Most Favored Nation trade status and ultimately Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China. The coalition that battled granting China this privilege faced an almost certain perennial loss. Even so, it served as a valuable forum in which to highlight just what kind of a country we are dealing with in China. The list of egregious actions laid at the feet of the Communist government of the People's Republic of China is long and spans decades—human rights abuses, religious persecution including torture and imprisonment, slave labor practices, forced sterilization, espionage operations against U.S. businesses, software piracy and intellectual property theft, military spying. At the time many argued with tremendous passion, business interests foremost among them, that trade with China would change China, not the other way around.

But recent reports have painted a grim picture of the purported "information age" in China. Chinese bloggers who have the audacity to type in words like "freedom," "democracy," or "human rights" receive a message, courtesy of Microsoft software, that says, "Prohibited language in text, please delete." It seems China is changing us after all.

And the change is perhaps no where more apparent than in the willingness of American companies and lobbyists to do the bidding of the Chinese government—a government which despite increased "engagement" over the last several years continues to pose a national security threat, blatantly disrespects free trade norms, persistently violates human rights, consistently stifles political dissent and is indiscriminate in its repression, arrest and torture of varied faiths targeting the Uygher Muslim population, the underground Protestant and Catholic house